

CANADA.

COPY OF A DESPATCH

FROM THE

GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.

FORWARDING A REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL ON A PRO-
POSAL FOR THE ORGANISATION OF AN IRISH IMMIGRATION TO MANITOBA AND
THE NORTH-WEST.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
March 1881.



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CANADA.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL THE MARQUIS OF LORNE, K.T., G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley. (Received November 23, 1880.)

Government House, Ottawa,
November 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith for your Lordship's information, a copy of a report of a Committee of the Privy Council adopting a memorandum prepared by the Minister of Agriculture containing a proposal for the organisation of an Irish Immigration to Manitoba and the North-West.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley,
&c. &c. &c.
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LORNE.

Enclosure.

COPY of a REPORT of a COMMITTEE of the HONOURABLE the PRIVY COUNCIL for CANADA, approved by His Excellency the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, on the 5th November 1880.

On the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture, the Committee advise that the accompanying memorandum be adopted as a proposal for the organisation of an Irish Immigration to Manitoba and the North-West, and that the same should be communicated to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies by your Excellency and through the High Commissioner for Canada in England, should your Excellency see no objection to that course.

Certified, J. O. Cox,
Clerk, Privy Council, Canada.

MEMORANDUM.

ON the suggestion made to him by the High Commissioner of Canada in England, Sir A. T. Galt, G.C.M.G., the undersigned has the honour to propose the following as a basis of joint action in promoting Irish Immigration should the Imperial Government entertain the project.

The Canadian Government, sympathising with their fellow subjects of Ireland in their distressed circumstances, would cheerfully co-operate in a well considered measure of relief by means of a systematic immigration from Ireland. If such a system of Irish immigration were established it is evidently a condition precedent to obtaining the cordial co-operation of Canada, that the immigrants should not become a burden upon the existing population.

In the case of single men and women no serious difficulty would arise, as employment can readily be found. But in the present distressed circumstances of Ireland, it is manifest that it is only by the removal of entire families that any sensible relief would be experienced from the pressure of a redundant population.

Provision would have, therefore, to be made, not only for the transport of the families to their place of settlement, but also for their maintenance until a crop can be had from the land.

In the older Provinces of the Dominion where the land is all heavily timbered, the difficulty of managing a large immigration would be very great. But in the vast fertile plains of the North-West, the question becomes comparatively easy of solution.

By very simple pre-arrangement any required number of farm lots could be prepared for occupation, in the season preceding the arrival of the immigrants, a small dwelling erected, a certain extent of the prairie land broken up and prepared for seed, and in the case of late arrival, actually sown, so as to ensure a crop the same season that the immigrants were placed in possession. This work could be done by contract under proper supervision, and would give employment on arrival to the new immigrant while

his crop was growing, thereby greatly reducing the cost of the undertaking and really limiting it ultimately to little more than the cost of his transport, as the repayment of advances by the earlier settlers would soon be sufficient to meet the annual outlay for preparing new lands.

The cost of removing an immigrant family consisting of parents and three children from the port of embarkation to Winnipeg may now be taken at about 40*l*. subject to a certain increase for their transport thence to their farm lot. The dwelling and eight acres of land prepared for crop with seed may be estimated at from 35*l*. to 40*l*. Some provision for the family might be required on arrival but the wages of the man ought to suffice for the support of his family till his crop is harvested, after which the immigrant may be regarded as self-supporting.

The Canadian Government provides each settler with a "free grant" of 160 acres, subject only to a patent fee of 2*l*. The settler can also secure the preemption of 160 acres adjoining at the current price and usual conditions.

For the re-imbursement of the outlay for transport and for establishing the immigrant upon his farm, it is suggested that the Canadian Government would provide that the total cost, as certified to their agent, and acknowledged by the settler, should form a first charge on the land, payable by certain annual instalments with interest.

To obviate the misconception to which Her Majesty's Government might be exposed in favouring any Canadian system of immigration, two points seem to be important.

1. Instead of direct action by Her Majesty's Government, it is suggested that the whole movement should be conducted under the auspices of a Commission or of a National Emigration Association, with an adequate organization, both at home and in Canada, and that the pecuniary aid should be given by the Imperial Government in the form of advances to such Association or Commission, at a low rate of interest, secured upon the settlers' land.

2. All immigration should be voluntary and assistance should be equally granted to all who come under the conditions laid down.

Were such a Commission or such an Association established, certain tracts of land would be placed at their disposal for settlement, which, under their officers would be prepared for the incoming families. The Association or Commission would also charge itself with the dissemination of information at home and with the selection and shipment of the immigrants while the Canadian Government would make them participant of any reduction on passages obtained in favour of immigrants, and cause them to be cared for on arrival and forwarded at the expense of the Commission or of the Association to Winnipeg where they would be met by the Government Land Guides and shown by them their respective lots; after which proceedings, the officers of the Commission or of the Association would take them in charge and see them installed on their land, which would have been prepared for occupation during the previous season.

The whole respectfully submitted.

(Signed) J. H. Poirr,
Minister of Agriculture.

Department of Agriculture,
Ottawa, October 30, 1890.